

# Waste Pharmaceutical Collection KIOSKS at the Grafton County Nursing Home



Grafton County Nursing Home has installed a waste pharmaceutical collection kiosk system. Each nursing unit will have its own kiosk (please refer to the attached floor plan for the location of each kiosk). In compliance with US Drug Enforcement Agency regulation, the kiosks are managed by Health Direct, the pharmacy that services the nursing home and are not under the control of the Grafton County Nursing Home. The kiosks are locked and once something is put in the kiosk, it cannot be retrieved. Please direct any questions about the kiosks to Craig Labore or Merry Porter.

## Why Install Kiosks?

It is illegal to dispose of waste pharmaceuticals by washing them down the drain or flushing them in the toilet. Waste pharmaceuticals can pollute waterways and drinking water supplies. It is also illegal to throw controlled substances in the regular trash. In addition, any medications disposed in the trash can eventually enter the environment. Keeping pharmaceuticals out of septic systems, landfills, and wastewater treatment systems is the most effective way to prevent pollution of our water supplies and negative impacts to wildlife and humans.

## What Should Go Into the Kiosk?

All medications that have been dispensed to residents and become waste can go in the kiosk. For example, when the resident refuses to take it or if it is accidentally dropped on the floor or otherwise contaminated. All medications and delivery devices that have been put in the trash should now be put in the kiosk.

Only medications should go in the kiosk, including pills, liquids, and patches. Packaging or medication cups should only be put in the kiosk if they also contain residual medication.

## Yes! Resident Refuses to Take Medication

If a patient refuses to take medication that is brought to them, put it into the kiosk along with the resident medication cup.

## Yes! Medication Is Spilled/Dropped

If medication is accidentally spilled or dropped on the floor, put the remaining amount in the kiosk. Use a wet paper towel(s) to clean up the spilled/dropped medication from the floor or other surface and put it all into the kiosk.

## Yes! Partial/Empty Used Medicated Ointment/Cream Tubes

When the medicated ointment/cream is no longer needed by the resident, put the partial/empty tube in the kiosk.

## Yes! Partial/Empty Bottles of Liquid Medications

When the resident no longer needs a liquid medication, put the bottle in the kiosk

## Yes! Single or Multi-dose Vials

If a resident receives an injection, and the medication vial is now empty or does not have enough for another dose, put the vial in the kiosk. But make sure to put the needle itself in the "Sharps" container!

## Yes! IV Bags

If a resident receives an IV, put the IV bag in the kiosk, even if it is not totally empty. Place the tubing in the trash and make sure to put the needle in the "Sharps" container.



## What Should NOT Go Into the Kiosk?

Any medications that are normally managed by the pharmacist and returned to Health Direct should not be placed in the kiosk. They should continue to be managed the way they always are. This includes unused controlled substances that require destruction.

### No Sharps!

Needles, including EpiPens should not be placed in the kiosk. Continue to put them in the sharps collection container located on the medication carts.

### No Medical Wastes!

Non-pharmaceutical medical wastes, such as bandages and dressings, should not be disposed of in the kiosk. Continue to dispose of these wastes based on current nursing home policy for disposal of "Dressings: Soiled/Contaminated."

### No Inhalers or Aerosol Cans!

They are under pressure and create problems at the medical waste incinerator. Continue to put them in the regular trash.



Grafton County Nursing Home  
[www.co.grafton.nh.us/all-departments/nursing-home](http://www.co.grafton.nh.us/all-departments/nursing-home)

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## No Medications That Have Not Been Dispensed for Patient Delivery!

Leftover and otherwise not needed medications are returned to the pharmacy. Unused controlled substances must be inventoried and managed by the pharmacist. Continue to manage these unused medications as in the past.

### No Regular Trash!

Please do not put the packaging for medications in the kiosk – unless there is also medication in the packaging. Please do not put trash in the kiosk.

## What Happens to the Collected Waste Pharmaceuticals?

When the kiosk gets full, the pharmacist will remove the liner and arrange for shipment. The collected waste medications are sent to an incinerator and are destroyed. The pharmacist is the only person who can handle the collected medications – but if you notice that the kiosk seems to be getting full, please notify Merry Porter.



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